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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01117 231828Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /026 W
----------231842 015222 /43
O 231758Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4927

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 1117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORS, CASC, GT
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF DUAL NATIONAL US-GUATEMALAN CITIZEN

REF: GUATEMALA 0987

1. BROL FAMILY PUT DUMMY AD IN NEWSPAPER SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, AS REQUESTED BY KIDNAPPERS (REFTEL). AD WAS SIGNAL TO KIDNAPPERS THAT BROL FAMILY WAS READY TO PAY A RANSOM, BUT OFFERED ONLY $75,000, WAY BELOW $500,000 ASKED FOR.

2. NOTHING WAS HEARD FROM KIDNAPPERS UNTIL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, WHEN A YOUNG MAN IN MOTORCYCLE HELMENT AND SUNGLASSES BOLDLY WALKED INTO OFFICES OF AGROCOMERICAL (COFFEE BROKERS) ON AVENIDA DE LA REFOR MA,
JUST DOWN STREET FROM EMBASSY, AT 12:30 NOON TO DELIVER ENVELOPE CONTAINING HANDWRITTEN NOTE FROM BROL, TYPED LETTER ON EGP LETTERHEAD AND SHORT TAPE-RECORDING OF BROL'S VOICE. TWO LETTERS AND TAPE RECORDING WERE IN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO GUATEMALAN CITIZEN EIETER NOTTEBOHM WHO IS OFFICIAL OF AGROCOMERCIAL WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BOUGHT BROL'S COFFEE CROP. BOTH LETTERS AND THE TAPE WERE ADDRESSED TO NOTTEBOHM ASKING HIM TO ARRANGE PAYMENT OF $500,000 TO KIDNAPPERS. IN LETTER, BROL POINTED TO HIS LONGSTANDING BUSINESS ASSOCIATION WITH NOTTEBOHM AND CREDIT HE HAS GOTTEN FROM NOTTEBOHM ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.
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TYPED MESSAGE FROM EGP TO NOTTEBOHM STATED THAT ONE OF REASONS REQUEST FOR RANSOM WAS BEING MADE TO NOTTEBOHM WAS THAT HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, TOMMY, HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED AND RANSOMED A YEAR AND A HALF AGO BY EGP AND THAT NOTTEBOHM FAMILY WAS FAMILIAR WITH PROCEDURES IN SUCH CASES. THE EGP LETTER INSTRUCTED NOTTEBOHM TO PUT ONE OF TWO DUMMY ADS IN NEWSPAPER WITHIN 48 HOURS, ONE WHICH WOULD INDICATE WILLING-

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NESS OF NOTTEBOHM FAMILY TO FINANCE RANSOM, AND ANOTHER
WHICH WOULD INDICATE NOTTEBOHM'S REFUSAL TO DO SO. IF FORMER,
NOTTEBOHM WAS GIVEN SEVERAL ADDITIONAL DAYS AFTER PUTTING
AD IN PAPER TO EFFECT DELIVERY OF RANSOM. NOTE FROM EGP ENDED
WITH STRONG WARNING TO NOTTEBOHM NOT TO GO TO POLICE OR BROL
WOULD BE KILLED.

3. INVOLVEMENT OF NOTTEBOHM FAMILY IS DISTURBING. QUITE
APART FROM HAVING GONE THROUGH EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL STRAIN
OF HAVING PAID $300,000 RANSOM YEAR AND HALF AGO, FAMILY IS
NOW EXPOSED ALL OVER AGAIN TO DANGER. YOUNG MAN ON MOTOR-
CYCLE WHO DELIVERED MESSAGES TO AGROCOMERCIAL OFFICES
FIRST PASSED BY HOUSE OF KIETER NOTTEBOHM IN UNSUCCESSFUL
ATTEMPT TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO MRS. NOTTEBO GWHO SAID THAT
HER HUSBAND WAS AT THE OFFICE. MRS. KIETER NOTTEBOHM IS
AMERICAN CITIZEN, WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY. SUBSEQUENTLY,
WHEN YOUNG MAN ON MOTORCYCLE ACTUALLY DID DELIVER MESSAGE
TO AGROCOMERCIAL OFFICES, EMPLOYEE OF AGROCOMERCIAL WENT
OUT ON STREET AFTERWARD BUT RETREATED BACK INTO BUILDING
UPON
SEEING THAT YOUNG MAN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AT LEASE FIVE
OTHER MEN WHO WERE WAITING IN STREET WITH MOTORCYCLES. HE
DID MANAGE TO GET LICENSE NUMBER OF ONE OF THESE.

4. BROL FAMILY IS DISCUSSING NEXT STEPS WITH NOTTEBOHMS.
EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

5. MRS. RALPH GRIFFIN AND SON LEFT TO VISIT HER SISTER IN HOUSTON
ON FEB 19 ON R&R ORDERS. SHE EXPECTS AT THIS TIME TO STAY
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FOR A WEEK OR TWO, PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, DUAL NATIONALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM01117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770218/aaaaaqcd.tel
Line Count: 99
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 333561c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 GUATEMALA 987
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3255736
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPING OF DUAL NATIONAL US-GUATEMALAN CITIZEN
TAGS: PORS, CASC, GT, US, (BROL, EDMUNDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/333561c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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